591
592
178
621
162

A second principal reason for fluctuation in the composition of the bilik-family is related to bilik partition.[7] Partition occurs when an individual or family removes from the natal bilik to found a new, separate bilik. That this is common may be ascertained by reference to Table 18, A in which nine of the 15 longhouses surveyed showed an increase in the number of bilik-families, the principal cause being partition. Partition arises primarily from the development of collateral nuclear

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421

families with divergent and incompatible interests. Within the bilik, property is divided into common and private. In the more traditional longhouse, common property included temuda' (farm lands cleared by ancestors), fruit trees, rubber and pepper gardens, brassware, large Chinese jars, antique bowls and plates, ceremonial garments and ornaments, pua' kumbu' (woven blankets) and other woven materials, augury sticks, charms and medicines, sacred and ordinary rice seed, and human skulls (antu pala'). In more modern houses, such as Rumah Nyala, Imba and Nyelang, common property also includes wrought iron furniture with vinyl-covered, foam rubber cushions, glass-front cupboards, desks, vanity tables, and dining

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377

room suites. At Rumah Nyala, it even includes a share in the combo instruments, purchased at a cost of $1700 by the entire longhouse community, and the electrical wiring and fluorescent tubes, as well as the dynamo (Iban dilemo) for powering the electric supply.

[7] See Freeman's excellent discussion on "Partition," 1970:41-55.

A, [See p. 254--Analyst]

18:Sutlive E,M-5 (1957-1971) 1973 OC6 Iban OC6 Sibu

SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

A. The Longhouse Community

361 178 A majority of the Ibans of the Sibu District live in relatively permanent settlements, the most characteristic feature being the longhouse. As previously noted, several factors have influenced the transition from shifting cultivation to permanent settlement, among them the planting and development of rubber gardens, the shift from hill padi to wet padi and the possibilities of continuous cultivation of farm land or cultivation with shorter periods of fallow through fertilization, and restrictions on migration owing to population pressures.

361 Of 37 longhouses surveyed, the oldest is Rumah Salleh of Bawang Assan, which was built in 1920.[1] Two houses included in the sample were begun in 1970: Rumah Bandang of Pasai and Rumah Lust of Durin. Several other houses have been begun recently, and the average age of the houses in the sample is 13.5 years (see Table 32).[A]

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[1] Rumah Salleh was founded in 1920 but as with all longhouses, has been added onto at different times. In 1961, the tuai of Tuai Rumah Salleh was rebuilt of hardwood planks which later were shellaced, and his bilik was wired for lights and a refrigerator.

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[A] [The author apparently means Table 31 on the following page--Analyst]